

ON OTHER
PAGES

SHORT STORY:

"THE STRANGE
CASE OF MR.
POTTS."

(See Page 5.)

THE NEW TIMES

Vol.7. No. 48. MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, DEC. 5, 1941.

Now, when our
land to ruin's
brink is verging,

In God's name,
let us speak while
there is time!

Now, when the
padlocks for our
lips ore
forging,

Silence is crime.

—Whittier (1807-1892).

What's Happening In Libya?

"Ballyhoo Battles"

British propaganda in this war has at no time been what it could and should be. Every campaign has started to the accompaniment of a great press campaign, reams of dispatches by the "famous correspondents" telling of unprecedented successes, and windy discourses by commentators fighting the war in various studios.

Time and time again we have seen false optimism destroyed by subsequent events. The effect on morale has been deplorable. It is high time that this sort of thing was stopped and a little more realism introduced. The following article strikes the right note:

"BALLYHOO BATTLES."

"There is a timely sanity about the spreading protest against over-optimistic accounts of the fighting in Libya and elsewhere. Cynics who say that truth is a war's first casualty, might add that optimism is its last. That order should be reversed. Let windy optimism fall at the start, but give us the truth throughout, for our Empire does not need to be bolstered by false hopes.

"Yet for nearly two years we heard about Time being on our side, until hard facts and figures proved that Time was on the side that took it most resolutely by the forelock—which for a while at least was not our side.

"As one military critic adds today, the B.B.C. may broadcast a 'ballyhoo battle' that has little likeness to the real fight being waged.

"Let us drop, once and for all, the idea that the enemy can be defeated anywhere with a sword wave and a shout. Hitler is more than a hysterical carpet-biter. His war-machine is no mere brainless juggernaut. It has skill as well as size, and a fanatical courage. Only our total fighting effort, backed by industrial thoroughness, can match and master that foe."

Ironically, that article appeared in the editorial column of the

Communists to Support Conscription?

Our admiration for the mental gymnastics of the local Comrades grows.

A report from last Monday's press states that many of the militant trade unionists in Sydney declare that, if Russia were supported, Labor's policy should be elastic and should provide for the possibility of support for conscription.

Well, it wouldn't be the first time that the financiers and the Communists have been bedfellows.

As a matter of interest, a recent issue of the illegally published Communist "Guardian" in Melbourne contained an appeal to help the Government's loan policy!

Melbourne "Sun" of December 1! Yes, the very paper, which published, along with the other dailies glowing reports of how, in the early stages of the present battle in Libya, the British forces had destroyed half the German tank forces. Judging by the headlines, the Battle for Libya was as good as over. At the time of writing we are being warned that a very hard and bitter battle is taking place, and that it will be

(Continued on page 6.)

WHOM DOES IT PAY TO ADVERTISE?

By "FOOTLE."

I suppose you've noticed the spontaneous enthusiasm with which the unlikeliest people at times will seize upon an idea. Not all ideas, of course; in fact, not always important ideas, and, I grieve to say it, sometimes not even sane or relevant ideas.

They will suddenly make up their minds that pease pudding is good for pink people, or that some particular blend of caustic soda and animal fat is inimical to obnoxious odours, and therefore prone to promote the adventure of marriage. And these are only harmless instances.

On the other hand, they remain apparently impervious to certain notions, such as that goods to use and things to eat are really the result of science co-operating with natural resources and that the place to get them is the teeming bosom of the earth and not the palaces dedicated to the cultivation and preservation of the root of all evil. Yet the first move in the game of production is to find out in the bank if anyone has any figures anywhere.

Oh, dash it! I didn't want to talk about money. Where was I? Oh, yes! This rummy spontaneity in the grasping of certain notions. I always make it a point now, not to listen to voices from overseas. They are so much like voices answering or asking questions set out in Form 001A (Sub) (revised) of the Reiteration Department. But I was suddenly caught too far from the switch of my radio and too indolent to do anything about it when "Voices from Canada," were putting over the "Hello, Mum and Dad, how's tricks and now we shan't be long" motif, and I was idly speculating on the pathos of lost opportunities, when the young Australian at the other end announced, "This is a swell place; we are having a swell time and the people are swell." I was just thinking to

THE TASMANIAN ELECTIONS

A Talk Broadcast from 7HO, Hobart, at 8.15 p.m. on Sunday November 23 by James Guthrie, B.Sc.

In three weeks' time the State elections will be held, and you will be asked to vote for a number of candidates who seek the privilege of representing you in Parliament. Most of the candidates will be known to you only by name. Who the candidates are, what they have done or are likely to do is mostly a matter of speculation and rumour.

But you are expected to vote for these men, and if you don't go to the polling booth you will be fined £2 by order of your humble servants, the men you elected to represent you.

At election time the people are supposed to have the opportunity of deciding what policy the Government shall pursue during the next few years; this process of deciding the Government's policy goes under the polite designation of "Democratic Government."

In order that democratic government shall be democratic in fact as well as in name, it is essential that the majority of the

people shall be able to obtain the results they desire in common with others. To obtain these results the following conditions are necessary:

1. The people should be able to decide what the policy of the Government is to be.

2. The people should have a free choice of the men they wish to carry out that policy.

3. That if the candidates do not do as they have been instructed to, the electors should be able to remove them from Parliament.

All these points I have discussed at some length on numerous occasions. All I wish to say at present is that new policies and new instructions should come from the people, and it is the duty of our Members of Parliament to see that the various experts employed by the Government should deliver the results demanded.

But instead of this happening, the various parties formulate their own policies, and tell us what they think we should have. In the past we have been asked to choose between the Labor Party and the Nationalist Party programme.

This choice, inadequate though it has been, might have been fairly reasonable if the rank-and-file of the Nationalist and Labor parties had adequate powers of decision and control over the party bosses; but they have not had that power. The control of a party is a complicated business,

(Continued on page 2.)

U.S.A. OIL SENT TO GERMANY

It is well known that there is a connection between the interests of Jewish International Finance in Wall Street, U.S.A., and the interests of the international oil combines. The following item from the Melbourne "Sun" of November 24, is worthy of black type:

"The Spanish Newsletter, published in London, says that 40,000 barrels of high-grade oil for the luftwaffe were among 127,000 barrels of United States petroleum products sent to Spain this month."

You have heard how "We promise all aid to the demarkracies fighting the totalitarian aggressors"! A much-quoted extract from many speeches delivered — but not written — by the world's greatest ballyhoo artist.

THE TASMANIAN ELECTIONS

(Continued from page 1.)

requiring a very high degree of experience and skill, and however much you may talk about the incompetence of politicians, they are, in fact, very skilled men in their own particular sphere. They are just as highly organised as the panzer divisions of the German Army, and no haphazard attack on the party system of Government is going to get very far or bring much relief for the taxpayer.

The politician is as much a victim of the present state of society as the businessman, the farmer or the schoolteacher. Only a realisation of exactly what we are up against will bring any improvement in the position of politics in this country. Let us now turn our attention to the Nationalist Party.

If you tried to find out what is the policy of the Nationalist Party, or for what principles they stand, you will search in vain. It has always been considered that the Nationalist Party stood for the protection of private property and the taxpayer and the small businessmen. But as far as these are concerned they might have been entrusted to the tender mercies of a gang of brigands for all the protection they have had.

Neither in England nor in Australia has the farmer or the small businessman been more shamelessly betrayed than by the so-called Conservative or Nationalist Party. The Nationalist Party has protected nobody but big business.

However good may be the intentions of the rank and file of the Nationalist Party, the party itself is controlled by a policy which must in the end destroy it or destroy the country entrusted to its care.

There is a tremendous amount of work waiting to be done in this State, all of which requires the expenditure of large sums of money. Better educational facilities, houses for the people, better roads, better shipping, protection for the primary producer, etc., etc.

There are only two possible attitudes to these; to do the work, which is crying out to be done, or to ignore it and let things stagnate. The first requires higher taxation or a new financial system; and the Nationalist Party has tried to do without both. They have tried to escape facing vital issues, but these issues are forcing themselves into the foreground, and they cannot be escaped. "Time marches on," and however much we hate coming to a decision, these decisions have to be made by us, or someone else has to make them for us.

And because we in Tasmania, as elsewhere, refused to face up to these vital problems, the young men of this generation can turn round and say to us. "Because you would not think, we have to die."

The Nationalist Party is overdue for a clean up, and a clean out. It neither has a principle nor a policy, and it owes its existence almost entirely to the fact that some people dislike it less than they do the Labor Party. The Labor Party is supposed to represent those who are called "workers." As about 90 per cent of the adult males in this country derive their incomes from oil of some kind, the question arises—Why does not Labor have a 90 per cent vote? The reason is that Labor's real policy, apart from its published policy, is the same as the real policy behind the Nationalist Party.

It was under a Labor Federal Government (Mr. Scullin's) that we had the depression and cut the wages of the workers. When the depression had reduced the country to chaos and trouble was brewing, our financial dictators decided to let money circulate more freely, and so stimulate industry.

The Labor Party in Tasmania benefited by this change of Federal policy, and won a lot of kudos, which had nothing to do with them, as the Nationalist Parties in other States did exactly the same thing at exactly the same time for exactly the same reason: The banks told them to do so, and at the same time made money available to do it.

The Labor policy is almost identical with the Nationalist policy, and is based on more loans, more debt, more taxes; more loans, more debt and more taxes. Listen in any night to the Federal Labor Government's propaganda, and see if you can trace the slightest difference in the speeches coming over the air, telling us we must have money to buy guns; must cut down the purchasing-power of the people; must have more loans. The speeches of Mr. Curtin are the speeches of Mr. Fadden, and of Mr. Menzies and Mr. Casey, and Mr. Montagu Norman of the Bank of England.

The more you change the men on top the more the policy remains the same. The reason is simple enough. The real Government of this State and of this country of Australia is not found in any House of Parliament; it is found in the back parlours of bank directors.

If Mr. Cosgrove or Mr. Baker takes office as Premier of this State, they know that they cannot meet the wishes of the people; they know that, apart from a small concession here and there, they cannot carry through any important scheme for the improvement of the State without increasing the debt, and, therefore, the taxation of the country. These men take office knowing that they are merely tax-collectors for the financial institutions; they are merely scapegoats for the financial institutions from a direct attack from the growing anger of the taxpayers, and by so doing they do a grave injustice to democratic Government.

The Labor Party introduced the special wage-tax to help the unemployed. The unemployed have disappeared, thanks to the war; the wage-tax remains under another name, thanks to the Labor Government.

Labor was not put into office to tax small incomes; that was not on its platform. Yet, it did it without sanction from the electors or from its own party. There is no sign of democratic government here. Taxation in this State has almost doubled since Labor took office. In 1932 it was just on the million-pound mark; now it is over £1,800,000.

Labor, with the support of Nationalists, increased the life of Parliament from three years to five; they had no right to do that; it is not only not on the Labor platform, but it is against

the Labor platform, and, I would say, against the wishes of most of the Labor supporters—yet they do these things.

A five-year Parliament is too long; the people should have a right to change their Government at least every three years. A change of Government usually brings few real changes, but it is a very good thing to have. It is a good thing to change the Government, even if the next Government is worse, because if a Government knows it is going to lose office unless it does something for the taxpayer, it will be more attentive to the wishes of the people and less attentive to the financial dictators of this country.

It is time the electors of this State did something to break the farce of Ministers taking office knowing they have little power to get the State out of its difficulties. There are great difficulties facing any Government, but if they would only put up a fight for the people we would feel more at ease. But there is no sign of that fight, and no encouragement given to anyone who is willing to put up a fight. The policy of the Labor Government appears to be: "For heaven's sake

If several candidates in each electorate don't sign, including the sitting Member, you are advised to put the sitting Member at the bottom of the list. In this way your vote will have some power, if only to put a Member out of Parliament. And Members get very upset when they lose their seats, and are likely to be more attentive to the taxpayer on future occasions.

We have got to face the fact very clearly that the party system has reduced democratic government to a farce, and the present Members of Parliament are quite satisfied to carry on this farce.

The fact that the financial institutions can get so many politicians to cheerfully make milch cows out of the taxpayers, and to hold up the progress of their own States, is sufficient condemnation of the present costly game of party politics. But the position unfortunately does not end there; the people in the so-called democratic countries are being reduced to such a state of chaos and exhaustion that the whole system of democratic government is being reduced to ridicule and contempt, and people are demanding something different. There is much evidence to show that this state of futility is being deliberately fostered.

Whether the politician plays his part in this game willingly or unwillingly is not of much importance, the fact that he does nothing to fight against it or to help the people to fight against it, is the part that condemns him in the eyes of those who see with disgust the increasing degradation of politics.

It is not good enough for men of experience and discernment to stand aloof and say: "Politics is a dirty game; it is a filthy game." There is no doubt about that, but so is war. And we are witnessing the outpouring of fresh young blood twice in the last 25 years because of political incompetency. The disciplined and regimented masses of Germany are very useful tools for politicians with a lust for power. An ignorant and docile people are always handy instruments for those who wish to climb to power. Ignorant people can always be found to destroy you and me and the things we have attempted to build. Ignorant people are the raw material of political parties; you who have some brain and intelligence, what are you going to do about it? Are you content to leave all the work to just a few of us, or are you going to help?

There are not many people who see clearly what is happening, there are still less who know what to do, and less still who are willing to do it. But a few men, if they are determined, can bring about a great change in this State, and this State can bring about a change in the Commonwealth of Australia. And Australia can help bring about a change in the affairs of the British Empire. That's how these things work. To believe that you, as an individual, can do nothing, is to believe exactly what your enemies wish you to believe. In other words, your morale has been destroyed and you have flung in your hand and are evidently prepared to let this world be run by financial tricksters, who are quite prepared to use the Labor Party or the Nationalist Party to carry out their knavish tricks.

Members of Parliament could do very much more than they have done to protect the people against barefaced exploitation, but in the long run the strength and purpose of Parliament depends almost entirely on the backing of strong and united people. In the past all great reforms have been originated by the people, and forced through Parliament by pressure of public opinion. To build up that public opinion as a slow and a costly business, but the work goes on in spite of the press, in spite of the Broadcasting Commission, and in spite of political parties—and again we ask for your help.

Democratic Candidates in Tasmanian Elections

Denison: M. J. O'Reilly, J. B. Harvey, E. W. Turner.

Franklin: A. E. Beard, T. W. Kimber, J. McPhee, B. Pearsall, J. Piggott, V. W. Shoobridge.

—Inserted by the Electoral Campaign, Hobart.

don't rock the boat, we might fall out and get wet."

I think this election offers a good opportunity for the electors of this State to say to Parliament: "You extended the life of Parliament without our permission; now you can reduce the life of Parliament back to where it was, from five years to three years." This can be done quite easily if you wish to gain control over Parliament. After all, if we cannot control the Government of this small State, how are we going to control the Federal Government (and don't forget Labor wants all Government centralised at Canberra). As many people in this State are strongly opposed to Parliament voting itself another two years of life, it will be interesting to see what the candidates for election have got to say about it. Each candidate will be asked to sign a statement stating whether or not they will vote for a return to the three-year Parliament. The names of those who sign and those who don't sign will be broadcast over this station and published in the press.

ERIC BUTLER IN ACTION

Eric Butler continues with his splendid work. After his Mathoura (N.S.W.) meeting (reported in our issue of November 21), he visited Rochester on Saturday, November 22. He contacted several supporters and discussed the possibility of a meeting in the near future. He was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. W. Forster.

On Sunday, November 23, he addressed a well-attended meeting at Lockington. Many questions were asked. A resolution to Mr. Rankin, M.H.R., urging him to press for the removal of all financial restrictions on the war effort, was carried unanimously. Mr. Butler stayed the night with Mr. and Mrs. Ron Williams, who have done so much splendid work in this area.

Mr. Butler arrived in Melbourne from Lockington late on Monday, November 24. After attending to a few of the many matters requiring his urgent attention, he left for Colac. He started to address the

best social credit meeting yet held in Colac within a few minutes of stepping off the train. The large audience gave him a splendid hearing. Many questions were asked. A resolution to the local Member was carried unanimously. Both the local papers gave the address splendid publicity. Mr. Butler hopes to find time to accede to a request to supply the Colac "Herald" with an article every week. Splendid work has been accomplished in this centre by the local stalwarts. On Tuesday, November 25, Mr. Butler addressed his first meeting at Cororooke. A big audience (Continued on page 6.)

How to Win the War — and the Peace

A Challenge to Every Britisher

By Eric D Butler

(Continued from last issue.)

Although Australia has undoubtedly made big industrial strides since the outbreak of war—that is, judged by progress in other countries apart from Germany—there is abundant evidence showing that this progress is only a fraction of what could have been done if financial interests had not pursued a policy designed to see that every improvement in Australia's industrial machine was regimented firmly under the control of the finance-controlled monopolies.

Many examples could be given, but it shouldn't be necessary. The matter has been referred to time and time again in the press. However, let me give one outstanding example. A splendid article on the possibility of mass production of aeroplanes in Australia appeared in "Smith's Weekly" of May 17, 1941. The article deals with the views of Mr. Edward Hallstrom, the well-known Australian inventor, who has an international reputation. He sent the following letter to Mr. Spender on April 24, 1941:

"Dear Sir, —I have noticed the recent published comments made by you with regard to war-time inventions. During the last war I had considerable experience with the Admiralty in London in regard to patents and inventions, and also with Thos. A. Edison, of Orange, New Jersey, U.S.A., who was the Chairman of the American Naval Inventions Board; also with J. and P. Hill, Armament Manufacturers of Sheffield, England. In the past twenty years I have taken a keen interest in the practical application of inventions, and, as you know, I hold a number of patents and have developed a successful refrigerator manufacturing business, which includes a well-equipped Laboratory and Patent Research Department. My object in bringing these matters under your notice is to place my services and the facilities of my works at your disposal in any honorary capacity in which I may be of assistance to you in matters of wartime inventions. Please accept my unqualified assurance of being entirely at your disposal in an advisory capacity or in taking a more direct interest in inventions, which may be of assistance to the Naval or Military Authorities. —Yours faithfully, Edward Hallstrom."

The following extracts from the article mentioned are particularly interesting, because Hallstrom, like all real organisers, deals with the necessity of decentralised production and pressing into the service of the nation every available piece of machinery—however small. Needless to say, Hallstrom's ideas were cold-shouldered by the authorities: "Had a type of 'plane been decided upon, Hallstrom points out that, under his scheme, the parts could have been divided between a number of firms for rapid reproduction. For example, one firm may make a number of left wings per day, whilst another may make right wings, and another turn out fuselages.

"Many manufacturers, under the master plan, could have made great numbers of various parts. Engine parts, instruments, could be similarly produced by different large or small companies if Hallstrom's plan was followed. This would have had the added value of decentralisation, and yet, as is done in England with her shadow factories, not lessen the number turned out daily.

"A central assembly plant for completed parts could be built as a focal point for the output of the associated workshops . . . Hallstrom thinks his plan sufficiently elastic to be applied not only to aircraft, but to all phases of munitions production in the National War-Effort."

Although this plan might not produce the number of 'planes a day mentioned by Hallstrom—50—it could undoubtedly be tried. But aeroplane production in this country is a closely guarded monopoly. I might mention that, apart from his many other accomplishments, Hallstrom was one of the pioneers of aeronautics in this country.

Even in Britain evidence has been made public of the manner in which small manufacturers who could handle the manufacture of certain standard parts for aeroplanes have been ignored.

The infernal money mesmerism is the root cause of all this paralysing of initiative and lack of experiment. New ideas are not encouraged, because they may not be successful. "We can't afford to waste money on new ideas which may not be successful" is a typical attitude. As a case in point, the "Sydney Morning Herald" of April 26, 1941, in an article on the production of tanks in Australia, contained the following:

"Highly qualified experts are tackling the work, and a few hours spent with some of these men is like a visit to another world. From those who brood over mathematical tables to the woodworkers who construct scale models, they live for their jobs. In one, but important, section of research the man in charge was informed that a necessary £100 which he sought would be available only if he could absolutely guarantee that the work would be successful. Of course, he could not do so."

Just think of it! The type of mind controlling the destinies of this nation thinks that £100 is of greater importance than experiment towards the end to be achieved.

Here is another damnable example of the same thing. The following extracts are taken from an article by Irene Ward, M.P., which appeared in the "Spectator" (England), of June 20, 1941:

"... the present system of Treasury control, which has been the cause of endless delays and errors of departmental judgment, hampering to the war effort, should be examined immediately.

"... I venture the view that a tradition, which makes Parliamentary attack on the Treasury on a Departmental Vote impossible, may well have some advantages, but equally may prove disadvantageous to the national interest. . . . To quote two illustrations which are almost poignantly topical. A Secretary of State for War on, I believe, more than one occasion asked for £100,000 for Tank Research. This request was rejected by the Treasury. Again, a Minister for the Co-ordination of Defence asked for £5,000,000 for the purchase of machine tools."

Comment would be superfluous.

RESOURCES NOT BEING USED

The Australian people have been amazed to read in their papers from time to time of the manner in which Sydney manufacturers have been complaining that Melbourne manufacturers have been obtaining the bulk of war contracts. If the nation were working to maximum capacity, with no financial restrictions, there would be no suggestion of some manufacturers obtaining more contracts than other manufacturers. This is not the case at present. Melbourne is the nerve centre of the Australian financial and economic world. Centralisation is running mad. Let us marshal some of the evidence of what has been taking place. Sir Charles Marr, N.S.W. U.A.P. Member, was reported in the Melbourne "Herald" of July 28, 1941, as follows:

"The operations of the big monopolies are having a bad effect upon the war effort. I have offered to give Mr. Menzies the names of ten smaller firms whose resources are being wasted, but I have not received even an acknowledgment of my offer from him," said Sir Charles. He said he wanted 100 per cent, war effort, and did not care who was making it so long as it was made. In future, his criticism would not be made in the party room, where it could be conveniently ignored, but in Parliament."

The following report appeared in the "Sydney Morning Herald" of December 24, 1940:

"Members of the Federal Parliament who visited the works of the Purcell Engineering Company yesterday were shown £70,000 worth of engineering plant which, it was claimed, was idle through lack of war orders. The visit to the factory followed recent charges by Sydney manufacturers that the Ministry of Munitions was showing favouritism to Victorian manufacturers in the letting of contracts for the manufacture of machine tools. Mr. W. C. Crooks, governing director of the company, told the visitors that the plant was working to one-tenth of its capacity. If more orders had been given by the Ministry of Munitions, and if licences could be obtained permitting the firm to export machine tools to Allied and neutral countries, about 1000 men would be given employment. At present the works employ 140 men. 'This war will be won with machine tools,' said Mr. Crooks, 'but our war effort cannot possibly attain its maximum effectiveness while plant like this is lying idle.' The visitors were shown more than 20 turret lathes and milling, shaping, grinding, and drilling machines, which were not being operated. Many of these machines had only recently been installed, and some of them had not been bedded, but officials of the company claimed that they could be brought into use very quickly if orders could be obtained. The firm has been engaged in the machine tool business since the last war. A 9-in. centre lathe made in the factory in 1915 was still being used in a corner of the works yesterday. Representatives of the company said that the firm had received an order for 54 lathes after urgent representations had been made to the Ministry of Munitions by Mr. Morgan, M.P. The order, however, was only a fraction of what the firm was capable of turning out. A representative of the Ministry of Munitions who accompanied the party was shown six lathes capable of machining to an accuracy of a ten-thousandth of an inch, which had been built in the factory in a month. Except for the ball-bearings, every part of these lathes, including the castings, had been made in the factory." (Continued on page 6.)

Whom Does It Pay to Advertise?

(Continued from page 1.)

you'll have to take on trust, mister. . . . Come again! . . . Oh, my eddication? Yeh, that's a laugh! I never had none. No time, see? Too busy fightin' the dust. Oh, but there's one thing I've allus been fair bustin' to get off me chest. Ever' day, I useter think of it while I was out busy layin' the dust, and that is: Wouldn't it be just swell if your country an' mine could get into a huddle some time? What wouldn't we show the world?"

Interviewer: "Thank you! You have just been listening" (having been too fascinated to switch off), "to a representative cousin, Mr. De Rosevelt Jones . . ." (Fade-up of "Stars and Stripes.")

I then began to notice the recurrence of this theme in practically everything over the air. I observed that it was possible to introduce it by starting from almost anywhere. You don't really need voices from overseas, or voices from children to their parents overseas, or visitors from overseas, or anything like that. You can talk of post-war reconstruction and bowl straight along the highway to that Mecca of felicity in which all our joys will be halved and all our woes doubled. You can talk of education and arrive there by easy stages. You can talk of cooking recipes, hookworm, foot rot, ladies' stockings or jellied eels—and worm your way by imperceptible degrees to that goal and ornament of the New World Order—Federation.

I have lately been so certain of the pervasiveness of this Federation wheeze that I have fallen into the habit of asking perfect strangers, "D'you think we'll get it?" It just shows how

widespread the idea must be, for hardly ever does anyone ask, "Get what?" Only once did a chappie ask that, but he was just being a funny ass. Anyway, that's my opinion of him.

You even encounter the contagion in the army, and quite recently, being present at some revels by invitation, I found myself joining in the following chorus. The tune is the refrain from "John Brown's Body," and the words are a substitute for the usual "Glory, Hallelujah" stuff:

"We'll be a happy, happy nation Thanks to Yankee federation; Give three cheers for emigration; Australia will be there."

Speaking of the army, I got an interesting letter the other day. At least, I think it must have been interesting before the censor got to it. This is the most interesting part:

"We disembarked at ---- and immediately proceeded to ---- which, as you may have heard, is--- or half-way to--- You can have no idea of the quantity of---- we saw at ----or the ----at ---- or the---- at---. Give my love to all at home, and keep one on the ice for me. And next time you write, tell me what you think of Federation."

I duly replied, but if the censorship is as effective in the case of my epistle as it was in the case of my correspondent, what he will read will be something like this:

"It is not a thing I should have mentioned without prompting, but since you ask me, I think Federation is!-----!!! In fact, it's-----!!!!"

Do you know, I think somebody must be doing it purposely.

The New Times

A non-party, non-sectarian, non-sectional weekly newspaper, advocating political and economic democracy, and exposing the causes, the institutions and the individuals that keep us poor in the midst of plenty.

Published every Friday by New Times Ltd., McEwan House, Elizabeth and Little Collins Street, Melbourne, C.I. Postal Address: Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne. Telephone: MU2834.

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AN INTERESTING COMPARISON

Under the heading, "Complete Slavery," an interesting commentary on conditions prevailing in Germany appears in the "Voice," Tasmanian Labor newspaper:

"Nobody may be employed in Germany without a labor book. The employers have long been utilising this regulation, in order, by means of discriminating dismissal, to exclude "undesirable elements and enemies of the State" not only from employment, but from any kind of relief. . . . In view of the experience so far available, that a worker will often leave employment, which is not to his liking, a central office for handling the employment papers of all persons employed in Germany has been set up at Wiesbaden. The intention is clear. It is hoped, by making the handing-in of papers at a party office compulsory, to make the slave-driving still more rigid, in order entirely to obviate undesired or unauthorised change of employment."

The inference to be drawn from this, apparently, is that these are the sort of conditions that Labor is pledged to stamp out, and to prevent power-minded individuals from imposing on this nation's "workers."

The words "New Zealand," however, could quite safely be substituted for "Germany" without any substantial change in the context of the article being necessary. In our little "Paradise of the Pacific" today, you must also produce your "dole" book—in which all your employment levies must be paid up—before you can secure a job.

All employment agencies have been superseded by a Government-controlled "Placement Office," which rigidly supervises would-be job seekers. If you are so unfortunate as to have left a job because you did not like it, or because you considered it detrimental to your health, or any of a dozen other reasons—if you left a job WITHOUT BEING FIRED—then you are made to feel the Government's displeasure by being placed at the bottom of the list and receiving last consideration for any vacant jobs—if your application IS considered at all.

Unfortunate individuals have been forced almost permanently on to the dole by this system of discrimination and bureaucratic interference with a man's right to choose his type and place of employment.

Leave it to Labor!

The Western Front

Report from the Electoral Campaign, 81 Barrack Street, Perth.

Wheatgrowers on Warpath—

The highlight of this week's news is the action taken by the Merriden Zone Council—strongly objecting to the use of the columns of the "W.A. Wheatgrower" by political parties. Herein lies the consciousness that in party politics is the real reason for the lack of results the farmer has had since 1931, when the banks created the start of the financial depression which has enslaved not only the farmer, but is swiftly overtaking the business men in the cities as well. Wheat farmers will do well to recognise that no one party can do the job that must be done if they are to have freedom and security. The Merriden Zone Council has taken a step in the right direction. The sooner electors distrust party politicians who are tied to the chariot-wheel of party politics (my party right or wrong), the sooner will we have men coming forward who will spurn the bread and circuses of the bankers' banquet board, and proceed to give the results we want.

Rent Fund. —Twenty-four people have now come forward for the pro-

mised shilling per week. We need 26 more who will back up these 24 people. By their works we shall know them—by their fruits shall we know our supporters. Do not let fear of tomorrow deter you from taking right action, and do not leave it to the other fellow to carry your burden for you.

The New Year Cruise —Our annual cruise to Garden Island and Rockingham comes off on January 18. Tickets, adults, 3/-; children pay at the boat, as usual. Let us make this a record outing. Keep up your morale; the enemy within takes as much courage to fight as Hitler's hordes from without. Help to sell some tickets.

Do Not Forget our Christmas funds—our office must be carried on over the festive season. Put sixpence a week away till Christmas, and then send it in to us. We can do with it—not a penny is wasted.

One Last Word—Have you written to your Federal Member about the Budget? Are you dissatisfied? Well, voice it to your M.P. He is the man you pay to get the results you want. Mr. John Curtin represents one electorate. Your member must represent you. If you disagree with Curtin, well, tell your Member what you expect him to do about it. That's democracy.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS

P.S., Erindale: As far as we can ascertain, the figures mentioned by Mr. Cudmore are correct. However, we venture the opinion that a vote by all returned soldiers in Australia today on the issue of conscription would result in its defeat. And the R.S.L. does not speak for all returned men. Many refuse to become members of the R.S.L.

Miss J. C., Ballarat, Vic.: We are sorry that your letters have not been replied to before this. However, you will note the reasons under the heading, "An Explanation." We repeat that Mr. Scullin, apart from his abysmal ignorance of financial policy, "surrendered to the bankers, because of a lack of power which comes from concrete evidence of public opinion . . ." Mr. Pollard confirms this when he states that, to quote your letter, " . . . Labor was defeated by the electors, because Labor's banking proposals were considered too radical." In other words, they lacked public backing. And Scullin didn't go to the people when the hostile Senate opposed him because he was ignorant of the real issue. Four Labor Premiers accepted Niemeyer's Premiers' Plan. Mr. Pollard's remarks about the New Zealand Labor Government are distortions. The private banks are in complete control. We refer you to Mr. Butler's book, "The Enemy Within the Empire."

Mr. H. H. M. Wallsend, N.S.W.: We fail to see how our non-party policy prevents us from logically criticising where criticism is necessary. We have never detracted from the fighting qualities of the Russian people—either in this war, or in the last war. We have tried from time to time to demonstrate our sympathy for the Russian people—as distinct from the Communist Government of that country—by revealing the real facts. We desire to see the individual peoples of all nations obtain control over their own destinies. When that happens, wars will be a thing of the past. This paper is opposed to socialism—as usually interpreted—whether it be the German brand, the Italian brand, or the

Russian brand. There is nothing wrong with the social system in the British countries, except the fact that most people have been too lazy to make it really function and remove the abuses which are not fundamentally a part of the structure, but which are a foreign growth. While fighting with the Russian people, there is no need to adopt their political system, which some people are so keen to do. To try and graft a foreign system of government on to the British people while they are fighting for their very existence is hardly "playing the game."

Mr. E. D. M., Maryborough, Q.: We received your letter of November 15, and were interested in the contents. We apologise for not having replied before; but, as explained elsewhere, this has been physically impossible. It is quite impossible to publish all letters received from readers. We trust that you will continue to give us your support.

Mr. E. H., Coff's Harbour, N.S.W.: No, the lecture entitled, "The Labor Party and the Banks," is not being printed. However, Mr. Eric Butler is writing a small booklet on the subject. We would be pleased to receive the articles you mention; also any others, which contain news items of vital interest.

Mr. J. K., East Barron, North Q.: The "Argus" report definitely stated that Mr. Menzies proposed the first toast to Mr. Roosevelt. We have the original report. Surely the "Argus" doesn't expect us to believe that they made such a mistake in reporting. If so, it is a damning indictment of the accuracy of anything published in that journal. Further, if the King was honoured first, why didn't Mr. Menzies, as Prime Minister of Australia, propose the toast? We feel that the "Argus" is endeavouring to cover up a very unfortunate occurrence. Significantly enough, we have heard nothing from Mr. Menzies as a result of our open letter. This speaks for itself. If the report were incorrect, you can rest assured that there would have been repercussions.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Scriptural Interpretation

Sir, —I am a constant reader of the "New Times," which I recommend to all and sundry. In point of fact, I regard it as the only paper worth reading on social problems. Hence, you will know that this letter is coming from a very friendly critic.

Occasionally the "New Times" has quoted the words of Holy Scripture, but I fear that the interpretations are not always accurate. Let me first take St. Paul (II. Thess. iii., 10): "If any man will not work, neither let him eat." St. Paul is here referring to those who eat ill-gotten goods. And the late Holy Pontiff, Pope Pius XI, in "Quadragesimo Anno," speaking of the wrong interpretation of this text, says: "In no sense does he (i.e., St. Paul) teach that labour is the sole title which gives a right to a living or to an income."

Take that other text (Gen. iii., 19): "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread." This text does not mean that everybody without distinction must work. The text shows the contrast between the state of man before the Fall (i.e., Original Sin) and after it. It does not forbid the use of labour-saving devices. In verse 16 of the same chapter we find: "In sorrow shalt thou bring

forth children." But that does not mean that medical science may not alleviate the pains of childbearing.

One more text and I am finished: In Luke xvii., 21, we find the words: "The kingdom of God is within you." A kingdom is a place where a king reigns. Now, God reigns in our souls, and He reigns there by grace.

—Wishing the "New Times" and its readers a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year, I remain, dear sir, Yours faithfully, "Ecclesiastic," Melbourne.

"BANKS AND FACTS"

By BRUCE H BROWN

A biting reply to the private banks' propaganda on war finance. The real barrier to a greater war effort exposed, and how it may be overcome. Read this excellent booklet, and demand that our war effort be financed without further debt.

Price 6d each, or 4/- per dozen (post free). Copies obtainable from the United Electors of Australia, McEwan House, 343 Little Collins-street, Melbourne, C.I. ORDER YOUR COPY NOW!

THE STRANGE CASE OF MR. POTTS

A Short Story by JOHN CLIFFORD

James McCrae, better known to his intimate friends as The Scribe, pointed his teaspoon at his companion as if forcing him with a pistol to make a confession. "Now, don't be stiff-necked, Stanley. I know that, although you are quite mad at times, you have used that old brain of yours to advantage on one or two occasions. But you must confess that this case has you beaten. Why, even I haven't been able to work out a theory."

All of which had no effect on Stanley, whose 15-odd stone overflowed from a rather small cafe chair tipped back at rather an alarming angle on two legs. A rather full, florid face, which not even Stanley's best friends could call good-looking, wreathed itself into a lazy smile at The Scribe's remarks. Twinkling blue eyes looked, out from under bushy ginger eyebrows. He slowly pursed his lips and softly whistled "The Beer Barrel Polka." Which indicated quite clearly that Stanley was thinking. No one was ever quite sure whether he whistled as a result of thinking, or whether he thought as a result of whistling.

The Scribe put down his spoon and sat back, looking very exasperated. "Stop whistling that damned tune, and take than inane look off your face. Here's the most baffling case for years. Look at it. I have had the boss feature it for the past few days. Right on the front-page too. He pulled a sheaf of newspaper cuttings from his pocket. One of the cuttings carried the headline: "Well-Known Business Man Found Dead in Bath." Another headline read: "Was Potts Murdered?" while still another read: "Potts' Widow Collapses at Inquest."

"What a story, Stanley! I knew that I was due for a break. I was lucky to have got on to this case before any of the reporters from the other papers. Now, just look at this report of my personal interview with Mrs. Potts. He pushed the teacups to one side, spread one particular cutting out almost lovingly, and started to read: "Mrs. Potts looked tragically beautiful in a close-fitting black gown. But her face, often mentioned in the social notes when beautiful women have been discussed, showed the great blow she had received. She told of her happy married life and her husband's fight to make good in the industrial world. As she spoke of her two girls, both at college, she was nearly overcome with emotion. She-----"

"Cut that drivel out, Scribe," suddenly interrupted Stanley as he brought his chair forward on to four legs with a crash. "Here I am trying to think and you interrupt me with that bilge. It might be all right for your tame morons, but frankly, it makes me want to join Potts."

The Scribe winced. After all, he was recognised as the cleverest and most able reporter on the "Daily Star," Sydney's leading daily. And the best people always read the "Daily Star" as part of their daily education.

"Now, now, Stanley," he said, with an air of dignity which he didn't feel—it was very hard to feel dignified when Stanley was in one of his brutal, realistic moods—"The 'Daily Star' has a nation-wide reputation for the presentation of its news. We like to give our readers human interest stories."

"Scribe, at times I don't think you know the meaning of human interest." Stanley leaned forward with both elbows on the table. The twinkle was no longer in his eyes. They looked like clear crystal. The Scribe knew what was coming, when those eyes looked like that, a lecture was in store. He sat back with a luke-

warm cup of tea in his right hand, resigned to his fate. He had been lectured by Stanley before.

Stanley continued: "It's not your fault that you are divorced from human realities. You're part of the machine you work for. Machines aren't interested in human beings as human beings. Your particular machine is only interested in what you call news value. To your profession, Mrs. Potts isn't a human being suffering grief, with two daughters to care for, dazed and unable to understand her husband's death. You assess her in terms of headlines, of circulation. You were actually pleased at Potts' death. Now don't deny it," he said, holding up a great ham of a hand as The Scribe started to protest weakly. "It was what you call a break. To your news editor it was a front-page story with sensational headlines. To your circulation manager it meant a rise in sales. To the public it was something to provide a little artificial excitement. The motto of the press is to give the people plenty of excitement and sensations. That keeps them away from reality."

"Mind you, Scribe, you are just as much in the grip of the machine as your readers. The big, soulless institutions of today aren't interested in individuals. They have reduced them to news value, or, in the case of the greatest Frankenstein of all, the State, they are regarded as mere material for statistics."

"Take the case of a man who commits suicide:

"For years and years he battles away against the adversities of life. Business is a bitter war. His banker is always pressing him to reduce his overdraft. His wife becomes ill. He is nearly driven mad with doctors' bills, which he cannot pay. There is the future of his children to consider. Heavy taxation is slowly but surely driving him to bankruptcy. He can't go on. There appears to be no hope. Death becomes preferable to the struggle. He commits suicide." Stanley paused for a moment, while The Scribe gulped a mouthful of tea. He then continued:

"Up until this point no one gives a damn about him. Your paper doesn't try to tell people of all the causes, which drove him to the point of suicide. Apparently that isn't news. Neither does the State give a damn. But, as soon as the poor chap takes his life, note the change. You get a break; your paper gets a story and some headlines. Then the whole machinery of the State is swung into action. Considerable money and energy are spent in investigating why he took his life. We certainly read about a business failure, but we read nothing about the financial causes of that failure. After a lot of investigation, which is now completely useless—it won't bring the man back to life or ease the suffering of his family—the case is indexed and becomes part of an elaborate suicide graph. The authorities talk about this graph from time to time, as if they were talking about a barometer."

If half the energy and money spent on investigating suicide cases were spent on the investi-

gation of the economic causes of suicide, and if the press would give those causes the headlines now being devoted to effects, we would be starting to move in the right direction. And I would feel that I was living in a civilised world, and not in a lunatic asylum."

The Scribe was breathing heavily. He had never received a verbal thrashing such as this before—not even from Stanley. But he put up a fight. Rather triumphantly he said: "All very nice, Stanley, but what about this Potts' case. It has you beaten. With all your talk about psychology, crime and its economic causes, you haven't even produced a theory about this case. And," using his teaspoon as a pistol again, "I challenge you to tell me the economic causes of Potts' death. Here is a man in good health, his business is sound, he is happily married, with two lovely daughters, and yet he is found dead in his own bath. Of course, he may have been murdered, but the police now regard that as extremely unlikely."

Stanley replied: "I am not denying that the case appears rather baffling. However, every effect has a cause. Men don't commit suicide unless there is a cause. There was a cause in the case of Potts—that is, presuming that he committed suicide. Scribe, I am going to find that cause." He arose to depart. The Scribe followed. Stanley paid the bill as they left the cafe, nodding cheerfully to Tony, the Greek proprietor.

Stanley refused The Scribe's offer of a lift home in a taxi. "I will walk and get a little fresh air. It will clear the cobwebs out of my brain and allow me to think a little more clearly. Meet me here tomorrow night at 8 o'clock, Scribe. I think that I will have a solution of this case for you. Goodnight." He turned and strode away. The Scribe stood and watched him until he was swallowed up in the darkness at

the end of the street. He couldn't help admiring the athletic bearing of this 15-stone giant.

"Taxi, sir?" A taxi, which had been cruising slowly down the street, pulled in at the kerb.

As The Scribe entered the taxi, the taxi driver said: "Excuse my cheek, sir, but wasn't that chap you were talking to Stanley Drummond?"

"Yes, that was Drummond all right."

"Gosh, sir, he's a smart chap that. And could he play football! I drove him home one night. Just about the time of the Kinley case. A real gentleman. . . ."

The Scribe said nothing. He remembered the Kinley case vividly. Stanley Drummond had saved him from a horrible death at the hands of Kinley, who, up to that time, had six cases of strangling to his credit. The Scribe's job as a crime reporter was more than exciting at times. The Scribe shuddered as he thought of how he nearly made the seventh case of strangling. Ever since that time a strange bond of friendship had grown between himself and Stanley Drummond. Drummond was 35 years of age, and had had an interesting and colourful career. The son of a wealthy squatter who had died when he was still at the University, he had never known the meaning of financial worries. He had been an outstanding figure at the University. Not only was he a brilliant athlete; he was a brilliant student. He had interested himself in psychology, particularly in relationship to crime. He had completed his studies overseas, and made a name for himself on several crime cases in America, where he met Clarence Darrow and other leading investigators of crime and its social causes.

Upon returning to Australia he had established himself as a private detective, although it was only a hobby to him. The solving of several cases, which had baffled

(Continued on page 7.)

AN EXPLANATION

From time to time complaints are received from readers stating that their letters of inquiry are either not replied to promptly or are not replied to at all. We would like to make an explanation.

The entire paid staff of the "New Times" consists of the Editor and one typist. Voluntary assistance is occasionally given. With the steady growth of the paper, it has been necessary for the two paid members of the staff to work harder than ever. The Editor has worked day and night for years trying to produce a first-class publication every week, apart from attending to the business side of the company. And we can assure readers that running a newspaper under the increasing bureaucracy in this country is a nightmare.

The Editor has not replied to some letters, not because of lack of courtesy, but because of lack of time. He has been on the verge of a nervous breakdown for some time, and is now carrying on against medical advice.

As a result of the financial improvement in the position of the "New Times," it is hoped to ease the situation by employing a junior office girl. However, rising costs continue.

The Editor has no time to enter into letter controversies with those who disagree with our policy. The policy of the "New Times" has been laid down clearly and explicitly by its shareholders, and we are determined to adhere to that policy.

Please don't write asking the Editor if such and such a statement in the paper is correct. We only publish facts, which can be verified. Otherwise we wouldn't

continue publishing for very long.

It is often quite impossible for the Editor to read ALL the material forwarded. If he did, he wouldn't produce a paper at all. That is why he has relied mainly on those contributors whom he knows. So don't be disappointed if your article isn't published. But don't hesitate to forward important news items.

We trust that readers quite understand the situation. The Editor would be delighted to answer all queries at length and in detail, to reply to all criticism of our policy, and to carefully read every word in every manuscript forwarded to him; but this is quite impossible at present.

In order to try to cope with the increasing correspondence, we intend to conduct a special column in the "New Times," devoted to brief replies to inquiries from correspondents.



HOW TO WIN THE WAR—AND THE PEACE

(Continued from page 3.)

"MELBOURNE INFLUENCE IN WAR CONTRACTS ALLEGED.

"Sydney, Thursday. —Seventy-five per cent, of all recent Governor machine tool contracts, worth £2,000,000, had gone to one group of manufacturers in Melbourne and Adelaide, a deputation told the Minister for Supply (Senator McBride) today.

"The group included the Associated Machine Tool Company, McPherson's Limited, and affiliated companies.

"The deputation told the Minister that two of the men who handled Supply Department contracts affecting New South Wales were the director of machine tools and gauges (Colonel Thorpe) and his New South Wales representative, Mr. Steer. Before he accepted the Government post, Colonel Thorpe was a director of the Associated Machine Tool Co. Ltd. It was stated Mr. Steer was an executive in McPherson's Ltd.

"The deputation said that while some New South Wales machine tool factories were working at a fraction of their capacity, export licences had been refused by the Customs Department."—Melbourne "Sun," 1941.

Much more evidence could be brought forward, but I don't think that it is necessary. Australian resources have not been, and still aren't, being developed to the full because of the finance-monopoly octopus. Even the local production of oil and power alcohol has been hampered by financial interests.

Money—or, as we call it today—credit, dominates the whole national economy. Let us look now at the core of the whole set of apparently conflicting problems, which confront us, today.

THE MANUFACTURE OF CREDIT

There was a time, not very long ago, when it was hotly denied that "the custodians of the peoples' savings" were nothing more than money and credit-manufacturing institutions. Slowly but surely the apologists of the present financial system have been forced on to the defensive. The present war has forced some remarkable admissions. But still not enough people are properly acquainted with the world's greatest racket; the obtaining of the assets of all nations by a banking system, organised on an international scale, by the simple process of creating money and lending it to the community as a debt. Every loan by the banks is an addition to the money supply. All that a bank does in lending money is to write some figures in a bank ledger and allow the borrower to operate on this credit by cheque. Bank loans create deposits, and not the deposits the loans, as some people would still have us believe. Reginald McKenna, Chairman of the Midland Bank, summed the matter up when he said: "I am afraid that the ordinary citizen will not like to be told that the banks can create and destroy money . . . Every bank loan and every bank purchase of securities creates a deposit, and every repayment of a bank loan and every bank sale destroys one."

Nothing could be clearer than that.

The Melbourne "Herald" has been one of the bitterest opponents of "those cranks who say that the banks create money by writing figures in bank ledgers."

"However, in its issue of November 18, 1939, a remarkable article appeared by the Finance Editor, entitled, "How Does The Government Get Money?" The following extracts are very interesting: "The remainder, the greater part, must be found by additional taxes, loans, and central bank credit. What are these Central Bank Credits? They are nothing but entries in a ledger account . . . Most of the transactions in the business world are settled by cheques, which merely transfer the ownership of 'a few entries' on paper anyway . . . Once it (the Government) gets the overdraft at the bank on which to draw cheques, the Treasury can proceed to spend the money."

Governor Eccles, head of the Federal Reserve Board of the United States, has said:

"The banks can create and destroy money. Bank credit is money. It's the money we do most of our business with, not with that currency which we usually think of as money."

Mr. J. M. Keynes, the British economist, states: "There can be no doubt that all deposits are created by the banks."

The July, 1938, issue of Branch Banking, "British bankers' journal, stated:

"There is no more unprofitable subject under the sun than to argue any banking or credit points, since there are enough substantial quotations in existence to prove to the uninitiated that banks do create credit without restraint."

One of the greatest indictments of the plundering of the people by the credit racketeers has been made by Mr. Robert Hemphill, former credit manager of the Federal Reserve Bank in Atlanta, U.S.A. He says: "It may come as a shock to most persons to learn that a bank is in no sense a depository—that it is in no sense a trustee of our funds, but is just a private corporation, and when one deposits cash or cheques in any bank, they become unconditionally the property of the bank, and the depositor becomes a general creditor of this private corporation.

"This is the 'sound money' some of our professional economists and subsidised newspapers are urging must be preserved at all hazards.

"It is a source of constant amazement to the student of finance that an otherwise intelligent people can be hypnotised by any group into passive acceptance of such an utterly absurd situation.

"The real issue is not Gold v. Fiat Money, but money—any kind of real money v. bank credit, manufactured by private bankers for their own profit, without reference to the economic needs or welfare of the nation.

"There is nothing to be gained by side-stepping these truths. "We can have a permanent currency, scientifically calculated to ensure permanent and perfectly controlled prosperity, or, we can continue to use this worse-than-rubber-money—bank credit, inflated or contracted at will by a small group of selfish financiers who control our big city banks, and who create alternating periods of senseless inflation and tragic depression which all our energy and genius are powerless to prevent.

"Every labourer, every merchant, every manufacturer, every professional man, should know that this is the central question upon which his individual welfare and prosperity depend; and that the fate of our social compact unquestionably lies in the decision of Congress on what we are able to use for money."

Possibly the most interesting admission of the fact that the private banks manufacture the nation's money supply at practically no cost to themselves, and issue it as a perpetual interest-bearing debt, appeared

in "The Economist" (England), in its issue of February 1, 1941. This journal is generally recognised as the mouthpiece of the bankers: "The growth of bank credit and its genesis in Government financing appear to have made the bank chairmen as a whole peculiarly sensitive to the charge of profiteering, a charge based on the growth of resources which, as the advocates of social credit are never tired of telling us, HAVE BEEN CREATED WITHOUT COST TO THE BANKS."

No doubt "The Economist" hopes, like many other apologists of the banks, that an open admission of the fact that the banks have created large sums of credit upon which they should only receive a nominal rate of interest will close the subject. Personally, I think that the growing idea that a lowering of interest charges is a move in the right direction is a red herring deliberately created by the bankers themselves. The open admissions on all sides about the costlessness of the creation of credit and the suggestion that interest payments should be restricted camouflages the major point:

That credit created is based upon wealth, which does not belong to the banks. All money, including credit, is a claim against real wealth. The banks therefore, have no right to claim this credit as their own. It should be issued as a credit, instead of as a debit to the nation.

In its issue of January 27, 1940, "The Economist" partially admitted the truth:

" . . . It was suggested last week that for genuine savings, the Government should offer about three per cent. There would be no justification whatever for the payment of so high a rate on created credit.

"Normally, when a bank creates credit by making an advance on good security, it is performing the necessary and valuable function of turning illiquid wealth into liquid credit, and it is entitled to the going rate of remuneration for that service.

"But in the circumstances here envisaged it would be the community's credit that would be liquefied, and the community, represented by the Exchequer, would be entitled to require that the rate of interest should be no more than the cost of handling the funds—say ½ per cent, per annum."

But why should the bankers obtain even ½ percent, year after year for all time on a simple job of bookkeeping. All credit should be issued as the property of the people without debt, and the banks should be paid once, and once only, for doing the job.

Even ½ percent, per year interest for all time on a debt would be a swindle, as the people would still have to be increasingly taxed to pay the interest charges; and it would still leave power with the banks.

Some common sense on the necessity of money being issued debt and interest free has been uttered by Mr. H. J. Kelliher, a director of the Bank of New Zealand. Upon his arrival in Australia in June 1940, he was reported by the press as follows:

"Avoidance of the major part of the economic aftermath of the war should be ensured by the replacement now of privately-created Money by State-issued money.

"By so doing the British Empire would be freed from the crushing burdens that were mounting up under its present financial system, for State-created money would be interest-free.

'To fight a war on privately-created money is to fight two enemies - one without and one within,' he said. 'The latter is the enemy.'

(Continued on page 7.)

What's Happening in Libya?

(Continued from page 1.)

some time yet before the end is in sight. No wonder that some nasty comments have been made in Britain.

We were told that we had everything in the way of equipment. And yet the Melbourne "Sun's" Military Expert was forced to admit on December 1: "Once again it has been clearly demonstrated in Libya that isolated infantry formations must have six times more self-protection both from the ground and from the air than they have at present, and that they cannot function efficiently without it. The South Africans operating inland were over-run by a large panzer unit, whereas, if they had been

equipped with sufficient six-pounder anti-tank guns, the tables could have been turned. The New Zealand infantry, advancing along the coast, were badly harassed by intensive dive-bombing, proving that extra heavy anti-aircraft guns of the Bofors type are essential to Keep opposing armoured planes at such a distance that their aim is spoiled."

Whatever is happening in Libya—it appears reasonable to believe that the British forces can finally drive the Germans and Italians out—we want the truth. The British people can stand it. We have had too much public bewilderment caused by our propaganda experts.

Eric Butler in Action

(Continued from page 2.)

attended for an initial meeting. Mr. Butler considers this one of the best country meetings that he has addressed for some time. Literature sales were outstanding, all books being sold out.

Mr. Butler returned to Melbourne late last week in order to attend to his literary work and the organising of further meetings. He spoke at Ringwood last Tuesday. A report of this meeting will appear in our next issue. He will be speaking at Gladysville next Sunday night. He will then leave for the Northwest speaking at Nullawil next Monday night. He will go on to Red Cliffs and Mildura. He hopes to address meetings at Birchip, Brim, and Donald on the way back to Melbourne.

MORE CO-OPERATIONS REQUIRED.

Although Mr. Butler will be addressing several meetings in the wheat belt, he would like to in-

form all readers in these areas that he does not intend any comprehensive tour until after the harvest. However, in order to make Mr. Butler's work easier, it is essential that he obtain the utmost co-operation,

Supporters desirous of assisting are urged to contact him now. This applies to readers in all country areas. Mr. Butler is also prepared to visit South Australia and the country areas of New South Wales if arrangements can be made.

FIGHTING FUND NEEDED.

If Mr. Butler is to carry out his work thoroughly, it is essential that he obtain adequate financial assistance. The organising of tours requires money. If you can't help physically, you may be able to help financially. Every shilling counts in the big fight. Send your donation now to "The Country Tour Fund," care of Box 1226. G.P.O., Melbourne.

THE STRANGE CASES OF MR. POTTS

(Continued from page 5.)

the police had made his name a byword in certain circles. He had also written several books on crime and its economic causes. These books were frowned upon by the authorities and given scant notice in the daily papers. But Drummond had persevered. More than once the police detectives sought his assistance and advice. The Scribe remembered many a front-page story, which he would never have obtained if it had not been for his friendship with him.

"Here you are, sir," As The Scribe paid his fare he asked the taxi driver what he thought of the Potts case.

"Well, it's very queer, sir, but if Stanley Drummond is on the job. I have no doubt that he will solve it."

In spite of his great admiration for Stanley, The Scribe had his doubts.

* * *

The Scribe could hardly keep his mind on his work the following day. He was anxiously looking forward to meeting Stanley that night. He arrived at Tony's cafe at 7.45 p.m. and waited as patiently as was humanly possible. Stanley arrived punctually at 8 o'clock. Before he lowered his great body into his chair, The Scribe impatiently asked: "Well, have you solved it?"

Stanley's answer was to casually call to the waitress and order some tea and buns. The Scribe swallowed hard and waited. As usual, Stanley wasn't going to be hurried. He took almost an eternity—or, it appeared so to The Scribe—to pour his tea out, sugar it, and taste it. Finally, he said: "Yes, I have solved it, Scribe. It was rather simple. I will give you the story, although I don't think that your boss will give it front-page headlines. I will start at the beginning. I made a lot of investigations this morning into Potts's past life. I discovered that during the last war he was badly shell-shocked. He was discharged from the Army and went back home to England, where he was a partner in rather a flourishing business. However, as you probably know, in 1920 the banks started curtailing their advances to industry. They were demanding that businessmen should actually reduce their overdrafts.

"Well, without going into details, Potts and his partner couldn't meet the bank's demands and they lost the business. On top of the shell shock, the loss of the business was too much for Potts. He was in a mental home for nine months. He finally recovered and came to this country.

"He managed to get a start and slowly but surely built up his present flourishing business. Although his wife didn't know anything of his past history before he came to Australia, she was able to tell me that during the last depression in this country he appeared at times to be very agitated. She couldn't understand this, as their business was one of those few that weren't affected by the depression.

"When I heard this I recalled to mind the case of a millionaire in America who committed suicide because, although he was financially secure, his mind had been permanently affected by a financial crash suffered when he was younger, with the result that no matter how wealthy he became, he was afraid of the future. I asked Mrs. Potts if her husband had appeared very worried since the outbreak of war. She said that although he was a little quiet at times, he appeared to be normally happy.

"I asked her if I might search through her husband's desk. Although the police had already searched it, they hadn't bothered about this." He pulled a sheaf of

newspaper cuttings from his pocket. "Yes, Scribe, cuttings from your own paper. These are the solution to Potts's death. All these cuttings deal with the possibility of another post-war depression. Look at these headlines:

"Fight For Post-War Markets Predicted By Financial Expert."

"Unemployment Problem After War.' Banker Warns Business Men."

"There are dozens of them. There can be no doubt that this matter was preying on Potts's mind."

"Yes, Stanley," said The Scribe, "I believe you are on the right lines. But don't try and tell me that a man could commit suicide by drowning himself in his own bath. Mind you, I'm not denying the fact that it was stated quite definitely at the inquest that he died through drowning."

"But I don't believe that he committed suicide," said Stanley. "Ah! Then you do think that it was murder. I thought that myself." The Scribe's eyes were alight with excitement now.

"No, Scribe, I don't. Potts died as the result of an accident caused by the economic causes I have already mentioned. He was suffering from a phobia caused by the mental shock during and after the last war. Psychologists have been recently investigating similar (Continued on page 8.)

How to Win the War—and the Peace

(Continued from page 6.)

of perpetual indebtedness, which we have never conquered.

"The sums of private credit money being borrowed are becoming so fantastic in their magnitude that every one recognises the impossibility of ever repaying them.

"The ever-growing interest burdens eventually will enslave masses of people by depriving them of purchasing power and creating large-scale unemployment.

"The logical thing was to prepare for a sound post-war footing and extricate ourselves from the debt in perpetuity system by instituting effective monetary reforms before it was too late. The State should replace private capital by State-created money distributed through State banks, assisted by the existing banks, backed by national resources, and placed on a commodity basis.

"This money should be used fully to develop national resources and put forward a maximum war effort."

Unfortunately, the New Zealand Labour Party has taken no notice of Mr. Kelliher's ideas.

The Australian Labor Party, in spite of some of its individual members realising the real situation, is proving itself no better.

Those who have studied political science exhaustively know that there is little hope of a change in financial policy as suggested until individual electors are prepared to organise non-party public opinion to a degree where individual members of Parliament are controlled by the electors, and not by a party junta.

I have outlined this matter completely in my book, "The Money Power Versus Democracy."

As the campaign for the financing of a maximum national effort without financial debt grows, much abuse is thrown at those who advocate financial sanity. Some of the protagonists of the present financial policy have even resorted to telling downright lies. It is being said that the money reformers want to try and fight the war without cost and sacrifice. The money reformers say nothing of the sort. They say that war has a real cost, a cost paid by the people as the war is fought in the form of men, materials and foodstuffs; and there is also sacrifice—hard sacrifice such as the loss of life. But what the money reformers object strongly to is the imposing of unnecessary sacrifice while the war is on; and, worse still, the suggestion that even more sacrifice will be necessary after the war in order to pay interest bills on debts created "out of nothing" by the private bankers; and this in spite of the fact that we will probably have more real wealth after the war than before the war started.

(To be continued.)

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"In view of the disastrous policy followed by the Bank of England after the last war and the part it is believed to have played in the re-armament of Germany, does not the right hon. gentleman (Sir John Simon) consider it time that the people knew a bit more about the proprietors of this unique concern?"

—Mr. R. Stokes, in the British House of Commons, April 16, 1940.

UNITED DEMOCRATS' REPORT

(From Headquarters, 17 Waymouth Street, Adelaide.)

S.A. Wheatgrowers' Association has for some time, in common with other wheatgrowers' associations throughout the Commonwealth, been probing into the money question. Mr. J. E. Maycock, secretary of the S.A. Association, has recently served as president of the Mortgage Banking Committee appointed by the Wheatgrowers' Federation to inquire into the various mortgage bank systems in vogue. The committee's report, submitted by the president, has just been published.

Mr. Maycock examined many systems in operation throughout the world (the secretary of the committee had previously obtained evidence from many sources, including Mr. Aberhart, Alberta). It is proved time and time again that the high interest charges make all existing mortgage banking schemes unworkable—from the farmer's point of view. Further, Mr. Maycock shows that under orthodox finance it is impossible to make them workable.

What, then, is Mr. Maycock's suggestion? When it is explained that he quotes from Professor S. K. Isles (Chair of Economics, Adelaide), it should not be hard to guess. Here is the quote: "It would be stupid to deny that it

is technically possible for the Government to get the necessary funds through the agency of the Commonwealth Bank, without taxing its citizens or borrowing from them, by creating additional credit money for the purpose."

Now, to quote from the president's report: "The creation of credit by private monopolies also has a tendency to lift the real government of the country out of the hands of the people and place it in the hands of those who have the power to create credit." And "... it is time the people made up their minds whether a banking system should be the plaything of the duly elected representatives of the people or the plaything of an UNELECTED BODY which has the right to CREATE CREDIT." (My emphasis.)

This is a booklet you must have. It is destined to do a splendid job. Copies are obtainable from the United Democrats at 4/- per dozen or 6d each.

The New Group referred to last week had its first meeting on Monday evening. Mr. Harvey attended and occupied the chair. It is of particular interest to note that these aspirants after something real are very youthful. Mr. John

Chappell, who has been associated with us for some time, has exerted a tremendous amount of energy in getting these young people together. Much can be expected of them, for youthful enthusiasm, coupled with knowledge of the correct action to take to get the results desired (and it would appear that a number of these youth have a knowledge of the methods of science), will achieve big things. At present the group is meeting on Monday evenings in Mr. Hergstrom's office, Rechabite Chambers, Victoria Square.

Next Fortnightly Executive Meeting will be held on December 11. A full attendance is desired.

Bridge and Checkers Evening—the final one for the year—will be held at Headquarters on December 6. Let us end the year with a social success. Socially, as elsewhere, a special effort brings special results. —M. R. W. Lee, Asst. Secretary.

little Finland was the latest champion of Democracy.

Today, Finland is again at war with Russia (now our "ally") and it is no longer Finland, but Russia that has become the champion of Democracy. Finland and not Russia is the "agent of Nazi policy."

The latest report from London states that the Prime Minister of England has said that Britain is now threatening Finland with war, and press opinion considers a declaration of war simply a matter of time.

Time certainly marches on!

The Strange Case of Mr. Potts

(Continued from page 7.)

cases. A man may be perfectly well and apparently have no worries in the world. But that fear is always there, deep down in the mind. If the fear becomes too strong, the person is likely to have a temporary collapse. Then he is all right again until the fear causes another collapse.

"Potts suffered from this obscure phobia. That was why he was collecting these cuttings, all about the one thing. He suffered a temporary collapse while in his bath and drowned."

The Scribe interrupted: "But what a strange place to collapse. And wouldn't this fear need to be sort of jugged forcefully to cause the man to collapse?"

"Yes, Scribe. And that fear was jugged forcefully. You might recall that a copy of your paper was found on the floor beside the bath. No one paid very much attention to it at the time. Mrs. Potts informed me that her husband used to read the daily paper occasionally while having his bath. I have carefully read that issue of your paper, and the following report is undoubtedly what gave Potts the fatal shock. Stanley had taken another cutting from his pocket. The headlines read: "Prime Minister Predicts Poverty Of Freedom After War. Business Collapse Foreseen."

(The End.)

UNION WITH FASCISTS?

The following appeared in "The Sydney Morning Herald" of November 18:

"The union after the war of the British Empire and the United States of America was urged tonight by the Federal Congress of the Returned Soldiers' League."

In the same day's issue of the Sydney "Daily Telegraph" the first of a special series of articles on American Fascists by the well-known Australian reporter, Richard Hughes, stated:

"There is grave danger that, in a time of national calamity or depression, America could swing to Fascism overnight — without knowing it."

TIME MARCHES ON!

It is not many months since the Russo-Finnish war, when "gallant little Finland" was receiving the plaudits of the press for her stand against the aggression of the Mighty Soviet's Red Army. Then Russia, whose "perfidy" had made it possible for Hitler to attack Poland, was described as the comrade-in-arms of Hitler and his Nazis, and poor

HASTINGS MEETING

Mornington Peninsula readers will be pleased to hear that arrangements are being made for Eric Butler to address an open-air public meeting at Hastings on Sunday afternoon, December 21. The meeting will take place outside the public swimming baths.

TO OUR READERS

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